

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A vehicle operation control method for controlling an actual steering angle of driven wheels based on a steering angle of a steering wheel and a vehicle velocity, comprising:

- a first step of obtaining a change amount in the steering angle by the steering wheel;
- a second step of controlling a variable gain based on the vehicle velocity;
- a third step of multiplying the change amount in the steering angle obtained in the first step with the variable gain controlled in the second step;
- a fourth step of integrating results of multiplications in the third step; and
- a fifth step of controlling the actual steering angle of the ~~steering~~ driven wheel based on a result of the integration in the fourth step.

2. (Original) The vehicle operation control method according to claim 1 in which a transmission ratio changing mechanism for changing a transmission ratio by a drive of a motor is provided halfway of a steering transmission system connecting the steering wheel with the driven wheels,

the variable gain controlled in the second step being a transmission ratio attained by the transmission ratio changing mechanism.

3. (Original) A vehicle operation control apparatus for controlling an actual steering angle of driven wheels based on a steering angle of a steering wheel and a vehicle velocity, comprising: a steering angle change amount obtaining means for obtaining a change amount in the steering angle by the steering wheel; a variable gain control means for controlling a variable gain based on the vehicle velocity;

a multiplying means for multiplying the change amount in the steering angle obtained by the steering angle change amount obtaining means with the variable gain controlled by the variable gain control means;

an integrating means for integrating results of multiplications by the multiplying means; and

an actual angle controlling means for controlling the actual steering angle of the driven wheels based on a result of the integration by the integrating means.

4. (Original) The vehicle operation control apparatus according to claim 3 in which a transmission ratio changing mechanism for changing a transmission ratio by a drive of a motor is provided halfway of a steering transmission system connecting the steering wheel with the driven wheels,

the variable gain controlled by the variable gain control means being a transmission ratio attained by the transmission ratio changing mechanism.

5. (Original) A vehicle operation control method for controlling an actual steering angle of driven wheels based on a steering angle of a steering wheel and a vehicle velocity, wherein

if information that the steering wheel is not being turned or information that the steering wheel is being turned without affecting the steering of the driven wheels is obtained based on the change amount in the steering angle by the steering wheel, changes in the actual steering angle of the driven wheels is restricted.

6. (Original) A vehicle operation control apparatus for controlling an actual steering angle of driven wheels based on a steering angle of a steering wheel and a vehicle velocity, further comprising a control means which if information that the steering wheel is not being turned or information that the steering wheel is being turned without affecting the steering of

Application No. 10/617,392  
Reply to Office Action of July 29, 2004

the driven wheels is obtained based on the change amount in the steering angle by the steering wheel, restricts changes in the actual steering angle of the driven wheels.